

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for billing a flat, recurring charge to a buyer for financing and insurance after a sale or lease of an item, comprising:

receiving a first indication of a sale or lease of an item to a buyer;

receiving a second indication of an insurance premium and a financial balance owed by the buyer corresponding to the sale or lease;

receiving a third indication of a first time period in which a periodic payment is due, and a second time period in which the buyer must pay a financial balance corresponding to the item, the financial balance corresponding to a loan amount or a lease amount, and the second time period being greater than 1 year; receiving a third indication of a predetermined time in which the financial balance is to be paid;

calculating on a computer system a periodic recurring amount based on the insurance premium, the financial balance and the second ~~predetermined~~ time period; and

receiving, from the buyer, a single payment corresponding to the periodic recurring amount within the ~~predetermined~~ first time period.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ second time period is based on a length of a loan for the financial balance owed by the buyer.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ second time period is based on a length of a lease for the item.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the item is an automobile.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the periodic, recurring amount is charged monthly.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a fourth indication of an interest rate to be applied to at least one of the financial balance and the insurance premium, wherein said calculating further includes:

calculating the periodic recurring amount further based on the interest rate.

8-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for billing a flat, recurring charge to a buyer for financing and insurance after a sale or lease of an item, comprising:

means for receiving a first indication of a sale or lease of an item to a buyer;

means for receiving a second indication of an insurance premium and a financial balance owed by the buyer corresponding to the sale or lease;

means for receiving a third indication of a ~~predetermined time in which the financial balance is to be paid~~ first time period in which a periodic payment is due, and a second time period in which the buyer must pay a financial balance corresponding to the item, the

financial balance corresponding to a loan amount or a lease amount, and the second time period being greater than 1 year ;

means for calculating on a computer system a periodic recurring amount based on the insurance premium, the financial balance and the ~~predetermined~~ second time period; and

means for receiving, from the buyer, a single payment corresponding to the periodic recurring amount within the ~~predetermined~~ first time period.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for billing a flat, recurring charge to a buyer for financing and insurance after a sale or lease of an item, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory in communication with the processor, the memory for storing a plurality of processing instructions enabling the processor to:

receive a first indication of a sale or lease of an item to a buyer;

receive a second indication of an insurance premium and a financial balance owed by the buyer corresponding to the sale or lease;

receive a third indication of a ~~predetermined time in which the financial balance is to be paid~~ first time period in which a periodic payment is due, and a second time period in which the buyer must pay a financial balance corresponding to the item, the financial balance corresponding to a loan amount or a lease amount, and the second time period being greater than 1 year;

calculate a periodic recurring amount based on the insurance premium, the financial balance and the ~~predetermined~~ second time period; and

receive, from the buyer, a single payment corresponding to the periodic recurring amount within the ~~predetermined~~ first time period.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method, performed by a computer, for billing a flat, recurring charge to a buyer for financing and insurance after a sale or lease of an item, comprising:

receiving a first indication of a sale or lease of an item to a buyer;

receiving a second indication of an insurance premium and a financial balance owed by the buyer corresponding to the sale or lease;

receiving a third indication of a ~~predetermined time in which the financial balance is to be paid~~ first time period in which a periodic payment is due, and a second time period in which the buyer must pay a financial balance corresponding to the item, the financial balance corresponding to a loan amount or a lease amount, and the second time period being greater than 1 year;

calculating on a computer system a periodic recurring amount based on the insurance premium, the financial balance and the ~~predetermined~~ second time period; and

receiving, from the buyer, a single payment corresponding to the periodic recurring amount within the ~~predetermined~~ first time period.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ second time period is based on a length of a loan for the financial balance owed by the buyer.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the ~~predetermined~~
second time period is based on a length of a lease for the item.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the item is an
automobile.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the periodic, recurring
amount is charged monthly.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
receiving a third indication of an interest rate to be applied to at least one
of the financial balance and the insurance premium, wherein said calculating further includes:

calculating the periodic recurring amount further based on the interest rate.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said sale comprises a
lease of the item.

23-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a periodic payment for (1) a
purchase or lease of an item and (2) an insurance premium for an insurance policy covering an
item, comprising:

receiving a first indication of an item to be covered under an insurance
policy;

receiving a second indication of a buyer of the item;

receiving a third indication of a first time period in which said periodic payment is due, and a second time period ~~predetermined time~~ in which the buyer must pay a financial balance corresponding to the item, the financial balance corresponding to a loan amount or a lease amount, and the second time period being greater than 1 year; and

calculating on a computer system an insurance premium for the ~~entire predetermined time~~ second time period based on the item and the buyer; and

calculating a periodic payment on a computer system to pay for the lease or sale of the item and the calculated insurance premium.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, further comprising:

receiving, from a party other than the buyer, a payment of the insurance premium.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ second time period is based on a length of a loan for the financial balance owed by the buyer.

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, wherein the ~~predetermined~~ second time period is based on a length of a lease for the item.

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the item is an automobile.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the periodic, recurring amount is charged monthly.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 68, further comprising:

receiving a fourth indication of an interest rate to be applied to at least one of the financial balance and the insurance premium, wherein said calculating further includes:

calculating the periodic recurring amount further based on the interest rate.

76. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for determining an insurance premium for an insurance policy covering an item, comprising:

means for receiving a first indication of an item to be covered under an insurance policy;

means for receiving a second indication of a buyer of the item;

means for receiving a third indication of a ~~predetermined time in which the buyer must pay a financial balance corresponding to the item, the financial balance corresponding to a loan amount or a lease amount~~ first time period in which a periodic payment is due, and a second time period in which the buyer must pay a financial balance corresponding to the item, the financial balance corresponding to a loan amount or a lease amount, and the second time period being greater than 1 year;

means for calculating on a computer system an insurance premium for the ~~entire predetermined~~ second time period based on the item and the buyer.

77. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for determining an insurance premium for an insurance policy covering an item, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory in communication with the processor, the memory for storing a plurality of processing instructions enabling the processor to:

receive a first indication of an item to be covered under an insurance policy;

receive a second indication of a buyer of the item;

~~receive a third indication of a predetermined time in which the buyer must pay a financial balance corresponding to the item, the financial balance corresponding to a loan amount~~

~~or a lease amount~~ receive a third indication of a first time period in which a periodic payment is due, and a second time period in which the buyer must pay a financial balance corresponding to the item, the financial balance corresponding to a loan amount or a lease amount, and the second time period being greater than 1 year;

calculate an insurance premium for the ~~entire predetermined~~ second time period based on the item and the buyer.

78. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method, performed by a computer, for determining an insurance premium for an insurance policy covering an item, the method comprising:

receiving a first indication of an item to be covered under an insurance policy;

receiving a second indication of a buyer of the item;

receiving a third indication of a ~~predetermined time in which the buyer must pay a financial balance corresponding to the item, the financial balance corresponding to a loan amount or a lease amount~~ first time period in which a periodic payment is due, and a second time period in which the buyer must pay a financial balance corresponding to the item, the financial balance corresponding to a loan amount or a lease amount, and the second time period being greater than 1 year; ~~receiving a third indication of a predetermined time in which the financial balance is to be paid;~~

calculating an insurance premium for the ~~entire predetermined~~ second time period based on the item and the buyer.